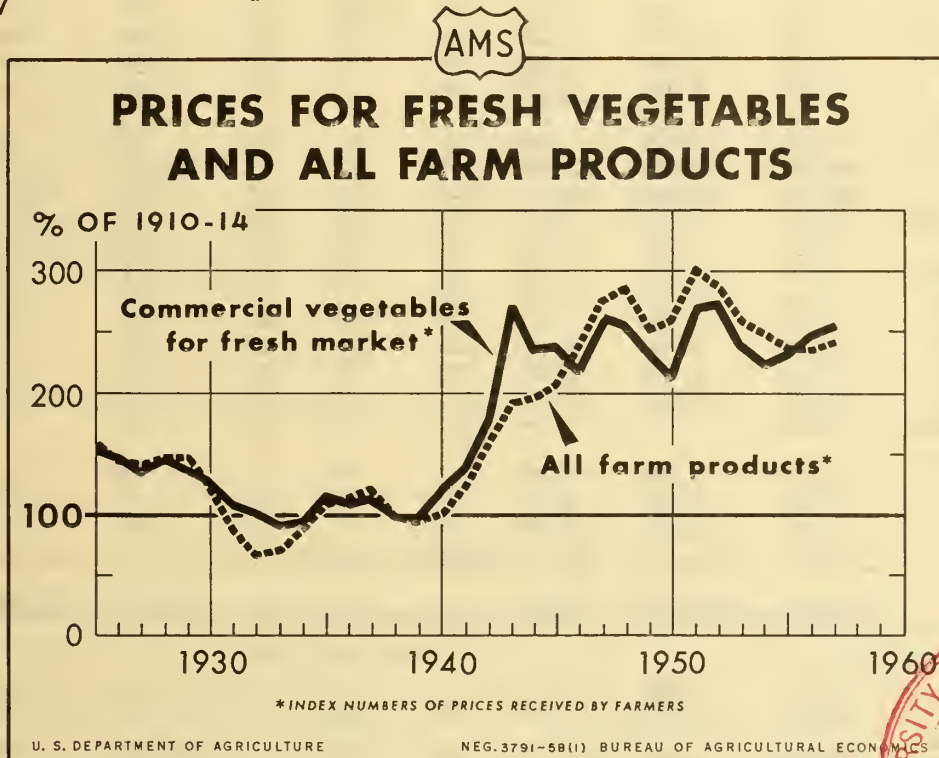


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The VEGETABLE SITUATION

January 1958
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Prices of fresh market vegetables have moved up over the past three years, as supplies per person have been a little smaller and demand has improved. During 1956 and 1957 vegetable prices averaged above the level of all farm products, whereas they

had been below in other years of the postwar period. During World War II prices of fresh vegetables were high relative to all farm products, but from the mid-1920's to the beginning of the War fluctuated around the level of all farm products.

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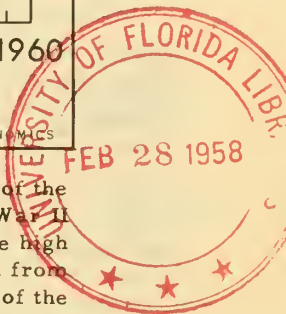


Table 1.--Vegetables for fresh market: Commercial acreage, yield per acre, and production of principal crops, average 1949-56, annual 1957 and indicated 1958

Crop and seasonal group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Average 1949-56	1957	Indicated 1958	Average 1949-56	1957	Indicated 1958	Average 1949-56	1957	Indicated 1958
	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>
VEGETABLES									
WINTER									
Artichokes	8,090	9,400	8,800	39	35	40	315	329	352
Beans, lima	700	400	350	28	25	23	20	10	8
Beans, snap	27,240	18,800	17,000	32	33	27	862	620	459
Beets	4,060	2,000	2,500	74	85	80	292	170	200
Broccoli	6,850	3,250	2,800	44	44	42	296	143	119
Brussels sprouts	350	400	100	45	45	40	16	18	4
Cabbage 1/	42,120	30,600	37,600	160	156	157	6,733	4,786	5,916
Carrots	39,510	30,600	25,950	128	142	145	4,989	4,335	3,764
Cauliflower	4,480	7,720	4,850	98	93	83	440	717	404
Celery	9,830	9,990	11,420	432	445	418	4,249	4,442	4,770
Corn, sweet	5,400	13,600	10,000	70	65	60	392	884	600
Cucumbers	1,810	2,600	2,400	72	85	70	134	221	168
Eggplant	720	900	550	138	150	125	99	135	69
Escarole	4,250	5,700	6,600	126	110	125	540	627	825
Kale	2,810	2,600	2,400	73	68	76	205	177	182
Lettuce	63,350	66,900	68,700	136	131	138	8,555	8,757	9,485
Peas, green	1,680	---	---	18	---	---	27	---	---
Peppers, green	3,910	6,200	5,300	107	89	75	415	552	398
Shallots	3,580	2,900	2,600	27	20	30	97	58	78
Spinach	19,670	13,250	12,750	41	53	52	759	671	668
Tomatoes	15,190	23,100	17,500	113	115	95	1,730	2,656	1,662
Total	265,600	250,910	240,170	---	---	---	31,165	30,308	30,131
SPRING									
Asparagus 1/	138,210	155,040	2/161,840	24	23	---	3,250	3,627	---
Cabbage 1/	20,050	17,200	2/17,400	123	144	---	2,447	2,485	---
Onions	37,600	30,000	30,000	63	90	---	2,212	2,700	---
Early	14,940	12,900	2/16,900	135	173	---	1,983	2,226	---
Watermelons	86,360	103,200	2/102,000	85	72	---	7,450	7,403	---
Late									
Total Spring to date	297,160	318,340	328,140	---	---	---	17,342	18,441	---
Total Spring 3/	698,193	687,730	---	---	---	---	49,274	51,788	---
Winter and Spring to date 3/	562,760	569,250	568,310	---	---	---	48,507	48,749	---

1/ Includes processing. 2/ Prospective. 3/ Includes asparagus used for processing and cabbage used for sauerkraut.

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 T H E V E G E T A B L E S I T U A T I O N
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Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, January 29, 1958

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SUMMARY

Production of 20 commercial vegetables grown for 1958 winter-season harvest is expected to be somewhat smaller than in 1957. On January 1 production was reported to be down slightly. Since that date, however, heavy rains in Florida and Texas and low temperatures in Florida have further reduced winter crop prospects. Marketings of fresh vegetables in January appeared to be more than a tenth less than in the same month last year. Among the more important winter vegetables, snap beans, sweet corn, green peppers and tomatoes are likely to continue in relatively light supply into late winter. Demand for fresh vegetables is expected to continue strong. With smaller supplies in prospect, prices received by growers for winter-season vegetables are expected to average substantially above those of last winter.

Incomplete data indicate that the supplies of canned vegetables available for distribution into mid-1958 are moderately smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago, but substantially larger than the 1949-55 average. January 1 stocks of frozen vegetables were record large. All major canned items appear plentiful, with sweet corn, green peas and snap beans in near-record supply.

Movement of processed vegetables is expected to continue relatively high. Winter disappearance is likely to be increased somewhat because of smaller supplies of some fresh market items. Stocks of both canned and frozen vegetables are expected to be smaller at the end of the current marketing season than in 1957. Thus, should the total pack in 1958 be about the same as in 1957, as suggested in the Departments' acreage-marketing guide supplies for the coming season probably would not be burdensome as has been the case in the 1956-57 and the 1957-58 seasons.

Potato supplies into mid-1958 promise to be somewhat smaller than the burdensome supplies of a year earlier. Prices are expected to average materially above the low levels for the corresponding months of 1957. Stocks of potatoes on hand are smaller than a year ago, and prospects are that production during the first half of the year will be smaller.

Stocks of potatoes held by growers and dealers in the 26 fall producing States on January 1 amounted to about 89 million hundredweight, 11.5 million less than a year earlier. Estimated production of potatoes for winter-season harvest, as of January 1, was 5.7 million hundredweight, about a million less than last winter. The crop has suffered some further weather damage since that date. Also, indications are that production of potatoes for spring harvest is likely to be somewhat smaller this year than last.

Sweetpotatoes appear to be in fairly light supply. During the early part of the season relatively heavy shipments from areas which market most of their sweetpotatoes at or soon after harvest held prices below year-earlier levels. By mid-December, however, weekly shipments had fallen below those of the previous season and prices were higher. With continued light supplies in prospect, prices are expected to advance into the spring, and are likely to average above those of a year earlier.

Total supplies of dry edible beans are somewhat smaller than supplies in the previous season, but appear adequate to meet anticipated domestic and export requirements. Domestic demand for dry beans may be about the same to slightly larger in 1957-58 than a year earlier. But with smaller supplies, substantially fewer beans may be exported than in the previous season when large quantities of CCC stocks moved abroad under special Government export programs. Prices received by growers, compared with a year earlier, will vary by classes. With smaller total supplies, however, and the same average national support rate, overall prices received by growers during the next 4-6 months are expected to average moderately to substantially above those of a year earlier.

Supplies of dry field peas are smaller than a year earlier, but substantially above the 1949-55 average, and in excess of anticipated demand. Domestic demand for dry peas this season may be about the same as a year earlier, but with a more normal supply situation in Europe export demand is expected to be down substantially. Above average supplies available during the next few months are expected to hold prices well under 1949-55 average levels.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES FOR FRESH MARKET

Production Down Moderately
Value Up In 1957

Acreage of vegetables harvested for fresh market sale in 1957 was slightly smaller than in 1956. Tonnage was down 5 percent from a year earlier but about 3 percent above the 1949-55 average. Compared with 1956, production was down substantially for beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, and shallots, and down moderately for celery and spinach. Only five crops -- asparagus, snap beans, cucumbers, eggplant and escarole -- were in significantly heavier supply. A larger acreage of watermelons more than offset a reduction in acreage of cantaloups, but production of both cantaloups and watermelons was below that of a year earlier.

Demand for fresh vegetables in 1957 remained strong. Among the more important items, prices averaged significantly lower than in 1956 for 4 crops-- asparagus, boccoli, cucumbers and onions. But prices were substantially higher for cabbage, carrots, celery, sweet corn, and green peppers, and moderately higher for lettuce. Despite the smaller production than in 1956, aggregate value of commercial vegetables for fresh market amounted to about \$722 million in 1957, 2 percent more than in 1956. Prices of cantaloups were much higher than a year earlier and watermelons substantially higher. Aggregate value of melons amounted to about \$118 million compared with \$103 million in 1956.

Production Likely To
Be Down, Prices
Up This Winter

According to January 1 estimates of the Crop Reporting Board, production of winter vegetables was expected to be slightly less than in 1957 and 3 percent below the 1949-56 average. The smaller expected production was largely the result of damage caused by the December 12 and 13 freeze in Florida. Among the more important crops, substantial reductions from 1957 were in prospect for snap beans, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, green peppers and tomatoes. Among other vegetables smaller supplies were also in prospect for broccoli, cucumber and eggplant. As of January 1, production of lettuce, largely in the West, and some of the hardier crops promised to be larger than a year earlier.

Since the January 1 forecasts were prepared, however, heavy rains in Texas and Florida and low temperatures in Florida on January 9 and 10 caused further damage to winter vegetables. In Texas heavy rains on January 4 and 5 flooded vegetables on low ground in the Lower Valley and Coastal Bend. Heaviest damage was reported for mature winter carrots and young tomatoes in the Lower Valley. In Florida, torrential rains of January 2 and 3 caused

extensive damage from flooding, particularly in Dade County which had escaped serious damage in the freeze of December 12 and 13. Below normal temperatures and continued rains in January retarded development of new plantings and prevented satisfactory recovery of the more advanced fields.

In recent weeks shipments of many tender vegetables have been curtailed as a result of weather loss and damage, and prices of some items have advanced sharply. Movement by rail and incomplete data on movement by truck indicated that for the period January 5-25 shipments of winter season vegetables were about 14 percent under those of a year earlier. Imports of cabbage from Holland are likely to be substantially larger than the light volume of last winter. Imports of vegetables from Cuba and Mexico are also expected to be materially heavier than the relatively light volume of last winter. These imports, particularly of cucumbers and tomatoes, will add significantly to market supplies. Nevertheless, aggregate supplies of tender vegetables are expected to be down substantially from a year earlier. Demand for fresh vegetables is expected to continue strong. With smaller supplies in prospect, prices received by farmers for winter vegetables are likely to average substantially above both those of a year earlier and the 1949-55 average. Prices of individual items compared with a year earlier will depend largely on the relative supplies, patterns of marketings, and quality. At least into late winter, prices received by growers for snap beans, carrots, cauliflower, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, green peppers and tomatoes are expected to average materially higher than a year earlier.

Prospects For Leading Crops

Cabbage - Indications are that cabbage supplies this winter will be below the 1949-56 average. January 1 stocks of fall-crop cabbage were relatively light, and production of cabbage for winter harvest is expected to be considerably below average.

Growers of fall cabbage, who received low prices for the 1956 crop, cut acreage in 1957; yields were also down. As a result, production was materially below both a year earlier and the 1949-55 average. Acreage of Danish cabbage in New York was cut substantially, yields were sharply lower, and production was more than a third smaller than in 1956 and almost a fourth below average. Despite the much smaller crop, movement of New York Danish cabbage last fall was slightly larger than a year ago. This left January 1 stocks, in producing areas, of only 434,000 hundredweight, less than half those of a year earlier and substantially below average. With most of the late fall crop from Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina marketed prior to January 1, and with winter production expected to be below average, Danish cabbage are selling at high levels.

The great bulk of cabbage available during the first quarter of the year will come from winter production. The mid-December cold wave sharply reduced production prospects in Florida, particularly on acreage for early season harvest and caused some damage to cabbage in Texas. Supplies of "new crop" cabbage from production in Florida and Texas was estimated on January 1, at 5.9 million hundredweight, about a fourth larger than the small crop of last winter but more than a tenth below the 1949-56 average. However, rains during January caused further damage, and lowered quality, particularly of mature cabbage. With supplies of new crop cabbage expected to be substantially below average, prices of this item during the next 6-8 weeks are likely to average above those of most recent years.

Early reports indicate a prospective acreage of cabbage for early spring harvest just slightly larger than in 1957. But yields may be lower than last year when growing conditions in most States were favorable and yields very high.

Onions.-- Best indications at this time are that supplies of onions available during the next 2-3 months may be a little smaller than either a year earlier or average. The 1957 crop of late summer onions, a large part of which goes into storage for marketing throughout the fall and winter, amounted to 16.9 million hundredweight a little less than a year earlier but slightly more than the 1949-55 average. The smaller production, together with a good rate of movement to market this fall and reported heavy losses in the central and western States has resulted in smaller remaining supplies than a year earlier. Stocks of sound onions in storage on January 1, 1958, at 4.3 million hundredweight, were about 8 percent less than a year ago and 14 percent below the 1950-56 average. Stocks in common storage were down 10 percent, while cold storage holdings, at 408,000 hundredweight, were up 20 percent. Total holdings were 16 percent less than a year ago in the eastern States, 8 percent less in the central States, and slightly less in the western States.

No production estimate is available for early spring onions. But tentative estimates of the Crop Reporting Board place plantings of this south Texas crop at 30,000 acres, the same as a year ago but a fifth below the 1949-56 average. Reported acreage is considerably above last year in the lower Valley-Raymonsville area, with most of the increase in irrigated plantings. Acreages in the Coastal Bend, Laredo and Winter Garden areas are down substantially from 1957. Plantings were delayed in Laredo, Winter Garden and Eagle Pass, and low temperatures retarded growth of young plants in some areas. In general, however, onions appear to be in good condition and at about the normal stage of development. Assuming 1953-57 average yields in the various areas, production of early spring onions would be moderately smaller than a year ago.

Intentions reports indicate that growers plan to plant an acreage of onions for late spring harvest 31 percent larger than last year and 13 percent above the 1949-56 average. Substantial increases are expected in California, North Carolina and Texas. The larger acreage is probably due at least in part to the high prices received for the 1956 and 1957 crops. But the high prices of 1956 resulted from the light crop, and the high prices of 1957 were due largely to rain damage to the early spring crop in the Winter Garden area of Texas and in North Texas. However, should yields be near the 1953-57 average, production on the indicated acreage would be much larger than a year earlier and in excess of anticipated demand.

Movement of onions during the past few months has been fairly active and prices have been moderately above those of a year earlier. With below average supplies available this winter, prices are expected to average above most recent years but may be about in line with those of last winter. The level of prices this spring will depend largely on the volume produced and marketed and on the seasonal pattern of harvest. Should the pattern of harvest of the spring crops be near normal, however, prices in early spring probably would remain fairly high. But a late spring crop as large as appears probable would likely result in marketing difficulties and depressed prices.

Carrots-Prospective production of carrots for winter harvest on January 1 was down 13 percent from a year earlier and a fourth below the 1949-56 average. Since January 1, however, further losses and damage have been reported for mature carrots in the Lower Valley of Texas. The reduced prospective production compared with a year earlier was due primarily to a sharp cut in acreage.

Demand was slow last winter and the below average crops in Texas and California were marketed at prices well below those of most recent years. Only the relatively small volume from Arizona brought above average prices. However, the 1957 early and late fall crops were substantially smaller than a year ago, and prices averaged materially higher. Prices received by growers in mid-December averaged \$4.85 per hundredweight, compared with \$3.50 in mid-December 1956.

Shipping point quotations indicate that prices in mid-January were still well above the relatively low level of a year earlier. With substantially lighter supplies available during the next two months, prices received by growers are expected to average much higher than the low levels for the corresponding months of 1957.

Celery-Prospective yield and production of celery for winter season harvest were cut somewhat by low temperatures and excessive rains in Florida. Below freezing temperatures on December 12 and 13 damaged outer leaves on mature celery and made heavy stripping necessary. Heavy rains and low temperatures in the Everglades in January also retarded development of young fields and lowered quality of mature celery. But acreage in Florida was substantially above the 1949-56 average, and December rains were beneficial to the crop in California. Thus despite the weather damage, in Florida production of winter celery is expected to be above average.

Shipments of celery from Florida in recent weeks have been very light, but movement from California has been heavy, and prices have been below those of most recent years. With above average supplies in prospect during the next 8-10 weeks, prices received by growers are expected to continue at moderate levels.

Lettuce - Acreage and production of lettuce for winter season harvest continues to expand. Indicated acreage is slightly larger this winter than last and about 8 percent above the 1949-56 average. Weather in the Far West has been favorable for winter lettuce. Thus, yields for the season are expected to average a little higher due to higher yields in California. Aggregate production is expected to be 8 percent larger than last winter and 11 percent above average.

Supplies of lettuce available in shipping areas in late December-early January were larger than a year earlier and prices averaged materially lower. Prices received by growers during the next 8-10 weeks will be influenced by the patterns of harvest in the various shipping areas. With continued large supplies in prospect, however, prices are likely to continue to average below those of a year earlier.

Tomatoes - Supplies of tomatoes promise to be substantially smaller this winter than last. Winter acreage in all areas of Florida except Dade County was destroyed or severely damaged by the freeze of December 12-13. Production of winter-season tomatoes in Florida was estimated, as of January 1, at 1.7 million hundredweight. This was more than a third below last winter and moderately below the 1949-56 average. But production prospects have been further reduced, since the January 1 estimate, by the heavy rains which drowned a large acreage in Florida, and by cold weather on January 9-10. Most surviving acreage was seriously damaged. Also, the wet weather prevented effective disease control so that leaf spot and rust are a serious problem on surviving acreage.

Reports indicate that imports of tomatoes from Mexico and Cuba are running well ahead of those of a year ago. With the prospect of much smaller production in this country, imports are expected to continue above those of a year ago. But total supplies available in domestic markets will be much smaller this winter than last, and prices are expected to average substantially above both last year and average.

Watermelons - Early reports indicate that growers in Florida and California intend to have slightly less acreage of watermelons for late spring harvest this year than last. Heavy rains in January resulted in serious damage to the crop in south Florida. Considerable replanting will be necessary in that section if growers' intentions are to be realized, and the crop will be later than normal.

The intended acreage with 1955-57 average yields and normal abandonment would result in the production nearly a fourth larger than the light crop of last year, and substantially above average.

Acreage-Marketing Guides

for Spring, Summer, and Fall Vegetables

Spring - The USDA acreage-marketing guide recommends for 18 spring vegetables a 1958 planted acreage 1 percent larger than in 1957. With average yields and normal abandonment this acreage would result in a 1958 production slightly larger than in 1957. A 20 percent increase is recommended in cantaloup acreage, with the objective of 52 percent increase in production over the small crop of 1957.

Summer - For summer vegetables for fresh market, excluding melons, the guide suggests an aggregate planted acreage 1 percent less than last summer. With normal abandonment and yields near the average of recent years, production on the suggested acreage would be about 2 percent less than in 1957. Increases in acreages are suggested for early- mid- and late summer cantaloups. With normal abandonment and average yields, production on the suggested acreage would be substantially larger in early summer and moderately larger in late summer. But tonnage of the important mid-summer crop would be moderately to substantially smaller than a year earlier, and total summer production would be down slightly. A 5 percent reduction in acreage was recommended for early summer watermelons and no change for late summer.

Fall - The guide for fall vegetables suggests a planted acreage 4 percent smaller than in 1957. Normal abandonment and yields near the average of recent years, on the suggested acreage, would result in a production about the same as in 1957.

The acreage-marketing guides, giving detailed recommendations for the individual crops, are distributed to State extension workers and other interested groups. Copies may be obtained from the Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. D. A., Washington 25, D. C.

VEGETABLES FOR COMMERCIAL PROCESSING

1957 Acreage for Processing Down Moderately

From a Year Earlier, Production and Value Down Substantially

Harvested acreage of 10 crops for commercial processing in 1957 was about 4 percent smaller than 1956 but about in line with the 1949-55 average. Yields of several heavy volume items, snap beans, cabbage, sweet corn and tomatoes also were significantly lower than those of a year earlier. As a

result, production for processing was down 19 percent from the 1956 record but was about 9 percent above the 1949-55 average. In addition to much smaller tonnages of tomatoes, sweet corn and cabbage for kraut, production of lima beans and beets was also substantially smaller, and asparagus slightly smaller than a year earlier. Tonnage of cucumbers for pickles was materially larger than in 1956, snap beans moderately larger, and green peas and spinach slightly larger.

Prices in 1957 were substantially higher than in 1956 for cabbage for kraut, and moderately higher for beets. But prices averaged materially lower for asparagus, and slightly to moderately lower for other processing crops. Total value of the 1957 crop of vegetables for processing amounted to about \$272 million, 14 percent less than the value of the 1956 crop.

Prospects for 1958

Supplies of canned vegetables appear to be moderately smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago, but substantially larger than the 1949-55 average. Holdings of frozen vegetables are record large. Demand for food is expected to continue strong, and with plentiful supplies in prospect into mid-year, a good rate of movement is expected for processed items. Stocks of both canned and frozen vegetables at the end of the current marketing season probably will be moderately to substantially below the high level of a year earlier.

The movement and market tone of processed vegetables during the next two or three months will have some influence on packer operations in 1958. But supplies of processed vegetables in both the current and previous seasons have been heavy, and prices paid canners and freezers for a number of major items have been low relative to their raw product, labor and material costs. No information is yet available as to probable acreage of vegetables for processing in 1958. However, based on past experience and anticipated demand, it appears that a moderate cut in acreage is needed in 1958 to avoid the risk of burdensome supplies in the 1958-59 season. Accordingly, the Department acreage-marketing guide suggests a 5 percent cut from 1957 in acreage of vegetables for commercial processing. Should yields of the various crops be near the average of recent years, aggregate production on the suggested acreage would be about the same as in 1957, but slightly to moderately above the 1949-55 average.

Due to a much smaller pack in 1957, supplies of tomatoes and tomato juice appear to be moderately to substantially smaller than a year earlier. Prices at wholesale average a little higher than those of a year earlier and are likely to show some further moderate strength. The U. S. Department of Agriculture acreage-marketing guide suggests a planted acreage equal to 1957 with the objective of an 8 percent larger tonnage.

Because of the sharply reduced pack, sauerkraut supplies are about a tenth smaller than a year earlier and moderately smaller than the average of recent years. Prices received by canners are a little above those of a year ago and are likely to show some further strength. The acreage-marketing guide recommends a 5 percent increase in total acreage for kraut over 1957, with the objective of 10 percent more tonnage. Volume of cabbage from contract acreage is supplemented by open market purchases of cabbage for kraut. The great bulk of these purchases, which usually amounted to 40 to 50 percent of total packer requirements, come from the early fall crop.

Green peas, sweet corn and snap beans are all in heavy supply and many packers are caught in a cost-price squeeze. Some reduction in 1958 production of each seems desirable to bring supplies in line with anticipated demand. Assuming yields near the average of recent years, this would require moderate to substantial cuts in acreage. The guide suggests a 10 percent cut in acreage of green peas with the objective of a fifth less production than in 1957; a 5 percent cut in acreage of both snap beans and sweet corn with the objective of 7 percent less snap beans, and 6 percent less sweet corn.

Among other processing crops, the guide recommends no change from 1957 in acreage of beets, with the objective of a 5 percent cut in production; a 5 percent increase in acreage of lima beans with a 2 percent larger production; a 10 percent cut in acreage of spinach with a 9 percent smaller tonnage; and no change from 1957 in acreage of cucumbers for pickles, with the objective of a moderately smaller production.

CANNED VEGETABLES

Data on production of vegetables for commercial processing and incomplete information on pack, indicate that the total pack of canned vegetables in 1957 was substantially smaller than the record 1956 pack. Among the more important items, the packs of tomatoes and tomato juice were much smaller than the above average packs of a year earlier, and the pack of corn was substantially smaller. The 1957 pack of canned green peas was about a sixth larger than in the previous season, and the pack of snap beans almost a tenth larger. Among other items on which information is available, the pack of asparagus was almost a tenth larger than a year earlier, while the pack of lima beans was a fourth smaller.

Remaining Supplies Moderately
Smaller Than a Year Earlier,
Substantially Above Average

The smaller overall pack of canned vegetables in 1957, compared with 1956, was largely offset by substantially larger carryover stocks at the beginning of the current season. Thus, total supplies available during the marketing year beginning in mid-1957 were only a little smaller than the large supplies available during the previous season. Movement of canned

goods this season has been at a relatively high level, and this together with incomplete stocks data indicate that remaining supplies probably are moderately smaller than a year ago, but materially above the 1949-55 average. Among items on which recent stocks data are available, canner holdings of sweet corn and asparagus appear to be about the same as a year ago, while holdings of green peas are substantially larger. Data are not available on canner stocks of tomatoes and tomato juice, but holdings of both items probably are somewhat lighter than the heavy holdings of a year earlier. Information is not yet available on January 1 distributor stocks.

Demand for processed items into late winter will be stimulated somewhat by the relatively light supplies of fresh vegetables. Total disappearance of canned vegetables into mid-1958 is expected to be at least as large as in the corresponding period of 1957. In early January f.o.b. prices paid to canners for tomatoes and tomato juice were moderately higher than the low levels of a year earlier. Snap beans and corn were about the same, while green peas were lower. Prices of a number of items are likely to show some strength as the marketing season progresses. But with above average supplies available, overall prices for canned vegetables are expected to remain at a relatively low level. Stocks at the end of the current marketing year are expected to be moderately to substantially smaller than the heavy stocks of a year earlier. Thus, a total pack in 1958 about the same as in 1957, as suggested in the Departments' acreage-marketing guide, would bring supplies for the coming season about into balance with anticipated demand.

FROZEN VEGETABLES

Pack in 1957 Smaller,
Beginning Stocks Larger
Than a Year Earlier

Although 1957 pack figures are not yet available for most frozen vegetables, indications are that the total commercial pack was moderately smaller than the record 1956 pack of 1,522 million pounds. The pack of frozen green peas in 1957 amounted to 293 million pounds, 67 million pounds less than a year earlier, while the pack of cut corn at 112 million pounds was down 6 million pounds. The 30 million pounds of asparagus packed in 1957 was about 7 million less than in 1956. The pack statistics are also likely to reveal smaller packs of a number of other vegetables, including broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and cauliflower.

But the carryover stocks of frozen vegetables on July 1, 1957, the beginning of the current season, were about a third larger than a year earlier. These larger stocks more than offset the estimated reduction in pack.

Remaining Supplies
Record Large

There has been a good overall movement of frozen items during the first half of the current season. Net movement out of cold storage during December was substantially larger than in the same month of last season. But supplies continued heavy. Total cold storage holdings of frozen vegetables on January 1 amounted to 884 million pounds, the largest of record for that date and 3 percent above a year earlier. Holdings of asparagus, sweet corn, mixed vegetables, mixed peas and carrots, french fried potatoes and spinach were materially larger than those on January 1, 1957, and green peas moderately larger. On the other hand, stocks of frozen broccoli and cauliflower were substantially smaller than a year earlier, and snap beans, Brussels sprouts and "other" vegetables slightly to moderately smaller.

Good Rate of Movement
Expected to Continue

Consumer demand is expected to continue strong in 1958. With record large supplies of frozen vegetables and sharply curtailed supplies of some winter-season vegetables for fresh market, aggregate movement of frozen items during the first half of 1958 is expected to be substantially larger than in the first half of 1957. Thus, carryover stocks at the end of the current season probably will be smaller than the record carryover in 1956. The market for frozen vegetables continues to expand, and processors are expected to put up another large pack in 1958.

POTATOES

Large Supplies, Low
Prices in 1957

The year 1957 was characterized by generally heavy supplies of potatoes and relatively low prices. The burdensome supplies in the first half of the year resulted from the large stocks of potatoes on hand January 1, 1957, the record output of winter potatoes, and a spring crop about 15 percent larger than the 1949-55 average. Although production for summer harvest was below both that of a year earlier and average, supplies were more than ample, and about 1.3 million hundredweight were diverted to starch and livestock feed under the USDA diversion program. About half a million hundredweight of these qualified for supplementary payments. However, pressure on markets was not as heavy as earlier in the season, and by mid-summer prices had strengthened somewhat from the spring low.

Fall crop production was about 8 percent below that of 1956 but about 13 million hundredweight above the USDA acreage-marketing guide recommendation. Prices during the fall remained at fairly low levels.

The Fall Crop; Marketing
Agreements and Orders;
and the Diversion Program

Production of potatoes for 1957 fall harvest amounted to 154 million hundredweight. This was about 12 million hundredweight less than in 1956 but moderately in excess of anticipated trade requirements. Marketing agreements and orders, restricting marketings of tablestock potatoes to the more desirable grades and sizes, are again in effect in a number of the major producing areas. Based on the size and distribution of the 1957 fall crop of potatoes, about 70 percent of the crop is covered by Federal marketing agreements and orders.

To help alleviate marketing difficulties and to increase returns to growers, the USDA in late September announced a diversion program for 1957 fall crop potatoes. The program was basically the same as that for the 1956 fall crop and was available only in States or areas which developed and submitted to the Department a marketing plan which met the requirements of the program. Growers in participating areas receive supplementary payments for certain specified grades and sizes of potatoes diverted into starch, live-stock feed, or flour. The rates of payment are the same as for the 1956 fall crop. To encourage early diversion, established rates for grades and sizes eligible for payment were 50 cents a hundredweight through December 31, 1957; 40 cents through March 31, 1958; and 30 cents through remainder of program, but not later than May 31, 1958.

Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and parts of California have been approved for participation in the program. Total diversions under the program have been larger this season than last because of increased diversions of culls. Diversions of potatoes of the higher grades and specified sizes eligible for supplementary payments have been significantly smaller. Through January 25, a total of 7.8 million hundredweight of fall crop potatoes had been diverted under the program, about half a million hundredweight more than a year ago. However, only 3.5 million hundredweight were eligible for supplementary payments under the program, 1.4 million hundredweight less than a year ago. Notable is the large diversion under the program in Idaho this season, mostly culls, compared with a relatively small quantity diverted a year earlier.

Smaller Supplies in Prospect
Into Mid-Year

Indications are that potato supplies into mid-1958 will be somewhat smaller than the burdensome supplies of a year earlier. Stocks of potatoes on hand are smaller than a year ago, and prospects are that production in the first half of 1958 will be smaller than in the corresponding period of 1957.

Total stocks of fall crop potatoes held by growers and local dealers in the 26 fall producing States amounted to about 89 million hundredweight on January 1, 1958. This was about 11.5 million hundredweight less than a year

earlier, and slightly below the 1949-56 average. Production of potatoes for 1958 winter harvest in Florida and California on January 1 was estimated at 5.7 million hundredweight, compared with a record 6.8 million last winter and a 1949-56 average of 3.8 million. However, the winter crop in Florida has suffered additional weather damage since the January crop report. The winter crop makes up a relatively small part of production during the first half of the year, averaging 15 percent during the last 3 years.

Indications are that production of potatoes for spring harvest may be somewhat smaller this year than last. Acreage for early spring harvest is down 14 percent from that of a year earlier, and acreage of the important late spring crop is down slightly. The early spring crop typically makes up about 10 percent and the late spring crop 75 percent of total production during the first half of the year.

Although no production estimates are available for the spring crops, yields near the 1955-57 average by States on the indicated acreage, would result in at least a moderately smaller production of potatoes than last year for both early spring and late spring harvests but probably above the 1949-56 average.

Prices Expected to Average Above Low Level of a Year Earlier

The price of potatoes during the first half of the year will be influenced by supplies available, the quality of both old and new crop potatoes, and quantities moving into nonfood uses. However, with smaller supplies expected to be available for distribution in the first six months of 1958, prices received by growers are likely to average substantially above the very low levels for the corresponding months of 1957.

Foreign Trade

Both U. S. exports and imports of potatoes are relatively small. In the 1956-57 season, exports amounted to about 3.9 million hundredweight, less than 2 percent of production. Imports were less than half as large as exports. Most U. S. exports of potatoes go to Canada which also supplies nearly all U. S. imports. Although foreign trade is important to certain areas, it will have little affect on overall supplies and prices of potatoes in domestic markets during the next few months.

The U. S. restricts the quantity of certified seed potatoes which may be imported, as well as the quantity and minimum grades and sizes of tablestock potatoes. Canada also has minimum grade and size restrictions on imports.

Prospects Beyond Spring

It is too early to assess the supply and price prospects for potatoes this summer and fall. USDA this year has attempted to aid producers

in adjusting acreage and probable production in two ways, acreage-marketing guides and the Conservation Reserve Program of the Soil Bank.

Acreage-Marketing Guides - The Department publishes acreage-marketing guides for the various seasonal crops in an attempt to encourage farmers to hold acreage of potatoes at such a level, that given near-average yields, production would be about in line with anticipated market requirements. These guides take into consideration past history, trends in acreage, yield, and competitive position of the various areas, and contain specific acreage recommendations for each State producing during a particular season. The guide for States producing for summer and fall harvest was released in January. The guide recommends that growers plant 4 percent less acreage than in 1957 in the early summer States, 5 percent less in the late summer States and 7 percent less in the fall States. The recommended acreages with recent average yields by States would result in a total summer and fall production of about 183 million hundredweight compared with 195 million in 1957.

Soil Bank - Potato growers as well as producers of many other crops may put land into the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank. Figures are not available on the acreage of potato land put into the program in 1957. A Department survey of the effects of the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank Program in selected areas indicates that a significant acreage of eligible land in Aroostook County was in the program in 1957, and that some of the land had been taken out of potato production. But participation of potato growers, on the whole, was relatively light, and farmers continued to produce too many potatoes.

In 1958, Maine, Illinois, Nebraska and Tennessee make up a 4-State test of the "bid" procedure to get land out of production and reduce surpluses. Farmers through "bids" may offer their own dollars per acre rate, provided all the crop land on the farm is taken out of production. Under this procedure, if the Department accepts the "bids", growers may receive annual payments up to \$10,000 per year for either 5 or 10 years for taking whole farms out of production. Growers who wish may put only a part of their acreage in the reserve under provisions of the regular program which also continues in effect. Under the regular program, farmers may put acreage in the Conservation Reserve for a minimum of three years at certain specified rates of payments.

SWEETPOTATOES

1957 Production Above a Year Earlier, But Below Average

The early December estimates of sweetpotato production in 1957, at 18.1 million hundredweight, was 7 percent above the small crop of 1956 but 11 percent below the 1949-55 average. Acreage harvested while a fourth below average was slightly above that of 1956. Increases in acreage occurred in Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and California. Also, weather was generally favorable for the crop and U. S. average yield was record high.

Among the more important States, production was moderately to substantially larger than a year earlier in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas, and slightly larger in California. Production was down substantially in New Jersey, Georgia and Tennessee, and down slightly in Kentucky and Louisiana.

Prices in Last Half of
Season May Average
Above a Year Earlier

During the first part of the 1957-58 season shipments were heavier than a year earlier, and average prices received by farmers for sweetpotatoes were down moderately. For the period August-November, U. S. farm prices averaged about \$3.35 per hundredweight, compared with \$3.50 for the same period of 1956. The heavier shipments and lower prices during the first part of the season were due largely to the increased production in Maryland, Virginia and other States which market most of their sweetpotatoes at or soon after harvest. By mid-December, however, shipments had fallen below those of a year earlier and prices improved markedly. Prices received by growers on December 15 averaged \$5.07 per hundredweight, about 75 cents more than a year earlier. Shipping point quotations indicate that prices in mid-January continued materially above those of a year earlier. For the week ended January 18, shipping point prices in southern Louisiana averaged \$9.60 per hundredweight for U. S. No. 1 Puerto Rican type sweetpotatoes, compared with \$7.50 in the corresponding week of 1957.

Demand for sweetpotatoes into mid-1958 is expected to be about the same as a year earlier. With relatively light supplies and questionable keeping quality of some of the crop, Louisiana crop prices are expected to advance into the spring, and are likely to average above year earlier levels.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

Supplies Smaller Than
Year Ago, But Adequate

Total supplies of dry edible beans available for distribution in the 1957-58 marketing season amounted to 17.4 million hundredweight, about 9 percent less than in the previous season, and 14 percent below the 1951-55 average. However, supplies appear adequate to meet domestic and anticipated export demand. Dry beans have been in surplus supply in the postwar period, and considerable quantities have been taken over under the Government price support program.

The smaller supplies this season than last resulted from both reduced carryover stocks and a drop in production. Total stocks of dry edible beans on September 1, the beginning of the crop year, amounted to about 1.5 million hundredweight compared with almost 1.8 million a year earlier. Commercial and farm stocks on September 1 were slightly larger than on September 1, 1956, but Government holdings, at about 300,000 bags, were less than half as large.

Production in 1957 was also smaller--15.8 million hundredweight compared with 17.2 million in 1956.

Less White Beans, More Colored
Beans than a Year Earlier

The supply of white beans is almost a fifth smaller than last year as a result of substantial cuts in production of both pea beans and Great Northerns. For the 1957-58 season, all white beans make up about 38 percent of the total dry bean supply, compared with 43 percent in the 1956-57 season and 39 percent for the period 1951-55.

On the other hand, because of record production of pintos, supplies of colored beans as a group are moderately larger than a year earlier when output of pintos was relatively low. Production of pintos, grown principally in the Rocky Mountain States, is estimated at 4.8 million hundredweight, 43 percent larger than a year earlier and a fourth above the 1951-55 average. However, beginning stocks of this class were relatively light, which has lessened the impact of the large production. Among other important colored classes, supplies of both red kidney and small red beans are much smaller than the heavy supplies of a year ago, but red kidneys are only moderately below average. Supply of pink beans is 8 percent smaller than last season and more than a fourth below average. All colored beans together make up about 44 percent of total supplies, compared with only 38 percent last season and the 1951-55 average of 40 percent.

Supplies of lima beans, at 1.6 million hundredweight, continued to decline. The largest decrease was in baby limas. Blackeye beans, at about 800,000 bags, are in somewhat larger supply than a year earlier but near average. California had a poor harvest season in most dry bean producing areas. Wet humid weather damaged many unthreshed beans, particularly in the Sacramento Valley and the Modesto area of the San Joaquin Valley. Baby limas, pintos, small reds, red kidneys and blackeye varieties suffered some loss in the field, and the quality of many wet beans threshed are sub-standard and some may be unfit for human consumption.

Disappearance Likely to be
Smaller, Prices Higher than
in the Previous Season

Domestic demand for dry edible beans may be about the same to slightly larger in 1957-58 than a year earlier. But with smaller supplies substantially fewer beans may be exported than in the previous season, when large quantities of CCC held beans moved out of the country under special Government export programs.

For the most part, supplies of the various classes of dry beans appear to be about in line with anticipated demand. But the supply of pintos is relatively heavy, and substantial quantities are being placed under price support. About 4 million bags of 1956 crop beans of all classes were placed under price support, 2.9 million bags of which were delivered to the CCC. Deliveries of 1957 crop beans are expected to be substantially less.

Prices received by farmers for each class compared with a year earlier, will vary according to its supply-demand situation. However, overall prices to growers during the next 4-6 months are expected to average moderately to substantially above those of a year earlier. Prices of pintos probably will average lower. In mid-December prices received by farmers for dry edible beans averaged \$7.41 per hundredweight compared with \$6.81 a year earlier.

DRY FIELD PEAS

Dry Peas in Heavy Supply

Considerably fewer dry peas are available than a year earlier, but supplies are still substantially larger than the 1949-55 average and above anticipated demand. The burdensome supplies resulted from a heavy carryover of 1956 crop peas at the beginning of the current season, plus above average production in 1957.

Stocks of dry peas on September 1, the beginning of the marketing year, were much heavier than the light stocks of the preceding season and slightly above the 1949-55 average. Production in 1957, although 30 percent below the large crop of 1956, was 11 percent above average. This gave an estimated supply at the beginning of the season of approximately 4.2 million hundredweight, about 600,000 less than a year earlier but substantially more than the 1949-55 average. Compared with 1956, smaller production was reported for all classes. The sharpest drop, 37 percent, was in Alaskas and other smooth green peas. But production of Canadas and other smooth white and yellow peas was down 28 percent, and production of "other kinds", mostly wrinkles for seed, was down 19 percent.

Domestic Demand Likely to be Near That of Year-Earlier; Export Demand Sharply Lower

Utilization estimates indicate that in recent years domestic food use of dry peas has averaged 0.6 to 0.7 pound per person. This would mean an average domestic food use of about 800,000 to one million hundredweight of peas, the bulk of which are consumed in "split pea soup". Nonfood use in this country has averaged 1.5 to 1.6 million hundredweight. This includes feed, loss, seed for the crop to be harvested as dry peas, garden seed, and seed for the commercial crops harvested green for canning and freezing, and for sale on the fresh market.

In most recent years, domestic demand has been satisfied and most of the remaining supply has been exported. Because of poor European crops, export demand was unusually strong in the 1954-55 season and in the early part of the 1956-57 season.

Domestic demand for dry field peas for all purposes may be about as large in the 1957-58 season as a year earlier. Because of a more normal supply situation in Europe, however, export demand is expected to be down sharply from a year ago. Exports in the September-November period amounted to only 17 million pounds, less than a third those of a year earlier.

Prices for 1957-Crop Peas
Expected To Remain At
Relatively Low Level

In early winter a year ago, heavy supplies of peas from the 1956 crop began to weigh on the market, and prices started a protracted decline that continued into the current season. With the harvest of 1957-crop peas, mid-month prices received by farmers reached a 6-year low of \$3.10 per hundred-weight in October and November 1957. The above average level of supplies during the next few months and the expectation of fairly routine export demand is expected to hold prices well under 1949-55 average levels.

Growers Should Not
Overplant in 1958

The domestic demand for dry field peas is relatively stable and inelastic. This means that a given change in supplies available for domestic consumption is accompanied by an opposite and much greater change in price per unit. Thus, with a particular level of export demand, farmers receive more income from a moderate size crop than from a large crop. Farmers should not produce abnormally large quantities for an export market which materializes only in years when the European crop suffers severe weather damage.

Wet weather at planting time appeared a big factor in acreage reductions in Washington and Idaho in 1957. Acreage planted was down about a fourth in Idaho and about a fifth in Washington. If weather is more normal in 1958 farmers may be tempted to plant a larger acreage. To avoid the risk of an additional surplus in 1958-59, however, growers would do well to hold acreage at or below that of 1957.

Table 2.--Vegetables for fresh market: Commercial acreage, production, and season average price per hundredweight received by farmers, for principal crops, average 1949-55, annual 1956 and 1957

Crop	Acreage			Production			Price per hundredweight		
	7 year average 1949-55	1956	1957	7 year average 1949-55	1956	1957	7 year average 1949-55	1956	1957
	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Artichokes	7,900	9,400	9,400	314	320	329	9.10	9.60	8.79
Asparagus	41,420	43,860	50,150	1,098	1,165	1,338	13.43	14.29	12.98
Beans, lima	19,860	14,580	13,200	495	356	324	8.09	8.77	8.99
Beans, snap	168,040	135,950	132,400	5,452	4,690	4,921	8.20	9.16	9.05
Beets	7,190	5,930	4,450	747	626	506	2.61	2.65	3.18
Broccoli 1/	39,420	44,200	39,170	1,947	2,356	1,914	8.41	7.79	7.35
Brussels sprouts 1/	5,580	6,400	6,250	518	755	589	9.71	8.63	7.31
Cabbage 1/	137,300	125,110	112,790	22,280	22,980	19,086	1.96	1.61	2.16
Cantaloups 2/	128,850	130,300	122,050	11,846	12,287	11,168	3.96	4.20	5.47
Carrots 1/ 3/	82,260	77,990	71,440	14,882	15,806	13,999	3.09	2.65	3.20
Cauliflower 1/	30,300	32,430	32,890	4,527	5,097	4,505	3.39	3.27	3.28
Celery 1/ 3/	36,030	36,010	35,290	14,090	15,898	14,943	3.78	3.32	4.04
Corn, sweet	207,220	193,150	194,150	11,386	12,318	11,807	3.47	3.78	4.24
Cucumbers	49,280	48,650	55,120	3,720	3,764	4,284	4.94	5.61	5.07
Eggplant	4,940	4,000	4,700	477	442	500	4.72	5.20	4.70
Escarole	4,780	5,750	6,750	620	738	774	4.45	4.52	4.61
Garlic 1/ 3/	2,290	2,400	2,300	149	216	196	11.85	10.43	9.24
Honey balls	380	---	---	33	---	---	---	---	---
Honey dews	10,790	12,700	9,050	1,461	1,647	1,143	4.61	4.44	5.58
Kale	2,840	2,600	2,600	208	182	177	3.70	3.85	4.00
Lettuce	210,440	228,130	233,310	29,730	34,121	33,871	4.18	4.00	4.27
Onions 1/ 3/	119,850	123,700	110,710	21,642	24,439	24,107	2.64	2.74	2.53
Peas, green	18,590	9,850	8,000	590	333	288	7.57	8.89	9.66
Peppers, green	41,730	40,240	43,940	2,532	2,719	2,745	8.11	8.89	9.66
Shallots	5,840	6,500	4,900	157	195	98	7.66	6.18	6.97
Spinach 4/	42,260	31,960	31,530	2,057	1,787	1,664	5.62	5.91	5.99
Tomatoes	232,060	226,930	220,950	18,709	20,045	19,651	6.65	7.83	7.64
Watermelons	396,150	410,400	433,350	28,308	31,654	30,015	1.35	1.43	1.67
Total	2,053,620	2,009,120	1,990,840	199,993	216,936	204,942	3.67	3.72	4.10

1/ Includes some quantities used for processing. 2/ Includes Casabas, Persians, and other muskmelons.

3/ Includes production used for dehydration. 4/ Includes production for processing in those states for which separate estimates of fresh market and processing production are not prepared.

Table 4.--Vegetables, fresh: Representative prices (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago for stock of generally good quality and condition (U. S. No. 1 when available) indicated periods, 1956, 1957 and 1958

Market and Commodity	State of Origin	Unit	Tuesday nearest mid-month					
			1956-57			1957-58		
			Nov. 13	Dec. 1	Jan. 15	Nov. 12	Dec. 10	Jan. 14
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
New York								
Beans, snap, green								
Valentine	Florida	Bu. hamper	5.04	5.43	5.31	3.68	2.75	10.00
Beets, bunched	Texas	Pony crt. 42's	---	3.32	3.38	---	3.49	4.45
Broccoli	California	14's small crt.	3.19	3.23	3.21	3.58	3.04	3.78
Cabbage, domestic								
round type	Florida	1-3/4 bu. crt.	---	---	2.31	---	---	3.32
Cabbage, Danish type	New York	50 lb. sack	.75	1/1.13	1/ .96	1.38	2.13	2.18
Carrots, bunched	California	4 doz. pony crt.	4.48	5.50	4.38	5.46	4.95	5.41
Carrots, topped	California	48-1-lb. film bag crt.	4.75	4.65	4.36	6.13	6.02	7.38
Cauliflower	Texas	Double deck crt.	---	3.94	2.70	---	---	3.63
Celery, Golden Heart	Florida	3-10 doz. 16 in. crt.	4.17	3.50	3.88	---	3.50	---
Celery, Pascal	California	2-2 1/2 doz. 16 in. crt.	4.29	4.85	6.25	3.81	4.28	5.09
Corn, Yellow	Florida	5 doz. crt.	4.38	5.40	4.50	3.63	2.71	5.00
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.74	8.44	6.25	3.20	5.69	---
Eggplant	Florida	Bu. bskt.	5.34	4.95	2.78	2.73	2.97	6.00
Escarole	Florida	1-1/9 bu. crt.	2.38	2.88	2.19	1.94	1.89	3.15
Lettuce, Iceberg type	California	2 doz. crtn.	7.00	4.13	3.60	4.00	2.98	3.24
Onions, sweet Spanish								
large size	Idaho	50 lb. sack	2.64	2.97	3.75	3.09	3.03	3.42
Onions, yellow,								
medium size	New York	50 lb. sack	.92	1.27	1.55	1.60	1.57	1.50
Peppers, green	Texas	Bu. bskt.	4.56	4.83	---	4.02	3.28	---
Spinach, Savoy type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	---	2.50	2.10	---	2.00	2.29
Tomatoes, green								
ripe, unwrapped	Florida	6x6 60-lb. crt.	---	9.80	8.44	---	10.50	9.47
Chicago								
Beans, snap, green								
Valentine	Florida	Bu. bskt.	4.25	5.85	4.25	3.25	2.85	---
Beets, bunched	Texas	1/2 crt. 3 doz. bchs.	---	2.90	3.35	---	2.50	3.88
Broccoli	California	14's 1/2 crt.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.50	2.85	3.13
Cabbage	Illinois	50-60 lb. open crt.	1.25	---	---	1.65	---	---
Carrots, topped,								
washed	California	48-1-lb. film bag crt.	4.50	4.15	4.10	5.75	5.62	6.42
Cauliflower	New York	Long Island crt. 12's	3.00	2.75	---	3.00	---	---
Celery, Pascal type	California	2-3 doz. 16 in. crt.	3.85	4.50	5.75	3.65	3.66	4.75
Cucumbers	Florida	Bu. bskt.	3.40	8.00	6.25	3.25	6.50	---
Eggplant	Florida	Bu. bskt.	---	4.75	2.90	3.00	2.70	5.75
Escarole	Florida	1-1/9 bu. bskt.	2.50	3.15	2.25	1.50	1.80	3.00
Lettuce, Iceberg								
type, dry pack	Arizona	2 doz. heads, crtn.	5.85	4.00	3.15	3.00	2.70	2.94
Onions, Spanish	Colorado	3" & lgr. 50 lb. sack	2.30	2.55	3.50	2.75	2.52	3.25
Onions, Yellow Globe	Idaho-							
	Oregon	Med. 50 lb. sack	1.15	1.30	1.30	1.65	1.63	1.58
Peppers, green,								
California Wonder								
type	Texas	Bu. bskt.	4.60	5.25	---	3.35	3.35	---
Spinach, Flat type	Illinois	Bu. bskt.	1.35	1.35	---	1.65	1.25	---
Tomatoes, green ripe								
and turning, wrapped	California	2/ 6x6 30-lb. lug box	5.75	3/11.00	3/9.50	4.75	9.83	---

1/ Long Island. 1 3/5 bu. bskt.

2/ 85 percent or more U. S. No. 1.

3/ Florida 60 lb. crate.

Table 5.--Vegetables, fresh: Average price received by farmers, per hundredweight
United States, indicated periods, 1956 and 1957

Commodity	Average first half of month				
	1956		1957		
	November	December	October	November	December
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Beans, snap	11.00	13.00	8.30	7.80	8.50
Broccoli	7.25	8.80	6.80	8.00	9.40
Cabbage	1.20	1.20	1.85	1.90	1.90
Carrots	3.60	3.50	4.65	4.90	4.85
Cauliflower	2.55	3.25	3.30	2.85	4.05
Celery	3.15	4.50	2.95	3.10	2.80
Corn, sweet	5.50	6.50	3.60	4.50	4.25
Cucumbers	5.00	10.40	3.70	4.20	9.20
Lettuce	8.00	6.55	5.00	3.60	3.75
Onions	1.50	1.80	1.90	2.10	2.15
Peppers, green	9.00	16.40	4.35	8.00	11.50
Spinach	4.75	8.00	5.70	5.50	8.20
Tomatoes	11.10	9.45	7.30	11.10	8.60

Table 6.--Vegetables, commercial for fresh market: Index numbers (unadjusted)
of prices received by farmers, as of 15th of the month, United States
by months, average 1935-39; average 1947-49, and 1950 to date

(1910-1914 = 100)													
Period	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av.
1935-39	114	121	133	130	125	98	87	82	81	90	103	115	107
1947-49	288	305	310	308	277	215	207	196	193	204	241	246	249
Year													
1950	257	213	195	276	231	211	200	170	156	165	214	249	211
1951	338	346	288	333	276	215	203	197	190	211	290	343	269
1952	301	249	294	341	311	294	289	240	203	224	266	281	274
1953	263	262	249	254	251	289	246	201	192	198	224	235	239
1954	247	227	230	266	247	201	225	196	176	197	234	227	223
1955 1/	250	255	249	264	259	216	203	204	224	217	244	232	235
1956 1/	255	267	267	244	259	290	263	204	181	208	266	263	247
1957 2/	237	236	252	294	315	283	288	248	221	221	241	240	256

1/ Revised. In addition to the vegetables included in the series published prior to January 1954, the following have been added; broccoli, sweet corn, cucumbers, and watermelons.

2/ Preliminary.

Table 7.--Vegetables for commercial processing: Acreage, production, and season average price per ton received by farmers, average 1946-55, annual 1956 and 1957

Commodity	Harvested acreage			Production			Price per ton		
	Average	1956	1957	Average	1956	1957	Average	1956	1957
	1946-55			1946-55			1946-55		
	Acres	Acres	Acres	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	1,000 tons	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Asparagus	88,190	109,500	104,890	102.7	117.5	114.5	201.90	225.60	186.60
Beans, lima 1/	97,800	100,440	90,670	83.7	108.0	92.6	145.30	150.10	141.80
Beans, snap	125,620	137,810	151,640	259.4	338.6	359.0	114.70	119.00	118.20
Beets	16,520	20,720	16,940	139.1	196.9	159.9	20.70	19.20	20.00
Cabbage for kraut	16,580	16,370	11,610	191.9	258.9	169.5	14.30	11.80	15.00
Corn, sweet 2/	453,510	449,030	438,960	1,287.8	1,710.0	1,491.5	21.30	20.30	20.10
Cucumbers for pickles	133,440	115,960	128,780	273.9	323.2	370.1	61.40	55.10	54.30
Peas, green 1/	427,260	474,020	453,790	435.3	545.4	559.9	88.90	92.50	89.70
Spinach 3/	33,380	33,310	33,380	120.6	138.5	142.9	42.30	39.40	37.80
Tomatoes	379,920	354,880	300,220	3,162.7	4,638.3	3,287.8	27.30	25.70	25.30
Total	1,771,680	1,812,040	1,730,880	6,044.7	8,375.3	6,747.7	---	---	---

1/ Production and price on a "shelled" basis.

2/ Corn in the husk.

3/ Averages are 1949-55.

Table 8.--Frozen vegetables: Cold-storage holdings, December 31, 1957, with comparisons

Commodity	Dec.	1956	1957				
	average						
	1952-56	Dec. 31	Aug. 31	Sept. 30	Oct. 31	Nov. 30	Dec. 31 1/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Asparagus	15,378	21,039	33,301	32,078	29,304	26,863	23,815
Beans, lima	97,226	108,224	75,341	125,735	130,979	120,365	108,074
Beans, snap	73,596	86,212	111,287	116,570	106,283	96,165	83,600
Broccoli	39,352	51,969	29,619	36,867	44,283	43,570	42,208
Brussels sprouts	24,894	29,334	13,609	12,880	17,831	24,053	27,948
Cauliflower	19,945	29,360	15,371	18,210	22,245	23,831	22,964
Corn, sweet	71,675	82,529	58,013	125,324	116,697	104,040	91,217
Mixed vegetables	2/	21,660	14,150	13,618	16,834	24,396	28,446
Peas, green	152,668	219,083	334,429	322,297	291,377	261,313	232,507
Peas and carrots, mixed	2/	15,644	9,934	8,332	13,360	17,407	16,879
Potatoes, french fried	2/	42,034	44,206	41,940	51,189	54,325	55,400
Spinach	36,118	35,731	52,524	45,593	44,256	44,345	39,483
All other vegetables		143,314	115,123	81,901	85,321	108,592	116,416
Total		674,166	857,942	873,685	984,765	993,230	957,089

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Included in all other vegetables.

Table 9.--Canned vegetables: Commercial packs 1956 and 1957 and canners' and wholesale distributors' stocks 1956 and 1957, by commodities, United States

Commodity	Pack		Stocks					
	1956	1957	Canner 1/			Wholesale distributors 1/		
			Date	1956	1957	Date	1956	1957
	1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's		1,000 cases 24/2's	1,000 cases 24/2's
Major commodities								
Beans, snap	23,982	26,174	July 1	4,879	4,345	July 1	2,608	2,372
Corn, sweet	35,668	31,533	Dec. 1	25,306	25,348	Nov. 1	3,366	3,368
Peas, green	29,248	33,857	Dec. 1	16,023	21,799	Nov. 1	3,226	3,453
Tomatoes	29,883	21,686	July 1	2,456	5,746	July 1	3,007	2,619
Tomato juice 2/	43,552	32,590	July 1	2,168	10,210	July 1	2,485	2,439
Total	162,333	145,840		50,832	67,448		14,692	14,251
Minor commodities								
Asparagus	5,422	5,887	Oct. 1	3,740	3,880	Apr. 1	683	643
Beans, lima	3,395	2,518	Aug. 1	911	1,082	July 1	508	504
Beets	9,691	N. A.	July 1	1,406	2,787	July 1	997	1,060
Carrots	3,075	N. A.	July 1	512	1,046	July 1	400	406
Pickles	3/21,978	3/25,164		---	---		---	---
Pimentos	3/349	N. A.		---	---		---	---
Pumpkin and squash	5,097	3,306	July 1	408	1,612	July 1	460	462
Sauerkraut	3/13,981	3/9,153	Dec. 1	4/7,837	4/7,421	Nov. 1	737	788
Potatoes	2,902	N. A.		---	---		---	---
Sweetpotatoes	5,063	N. A.		---	---		---	---
Spinach	6,409	N. A.	Mar. 1	1,220	1,575	Apr. 1	677	671
Other greens	2,224	N. A.		---	---		---	---
Tomato products:								
Catsup, chili								
sauce	24,678	N. A.	July 1	2,264	6,345	July 1	1,341	1,748
Paste	5/12,487	N. A.	July 1	6/754	6/2,260	July 1	N. A.	590
Pulp and puree	6,158	N. A.	July 1	6/162	6/1,091	July 1	599	579
Sauce	12,065	N. A.	July 1	6/1,448	6/3,832	July 1	712	512
Vegetables, mixed	3,341	N. A.		---	---		---	---
Total comparable	49,873	46,028		20,662	32,931		7,114	7,373
minor items								
Grand total								
Comparable items	212,206	191,868		71,494	100,379		21,306	21,624

1/ Converted from actual cases to standard cases of 24 No. 2 cans by S&HR Branch of AMS.

2/ Includes combination vegetable juices containing at least 70 percent tomato juice.

3/ Crop for processing converted to a canned basis by applying an overall conversion factor (pickles 68, sauerkraut 54, and pimentos 29 cases equivalent to 1 ton fresh).

4/ Reported in barrels; converted to 24 No. 2 by using 14 cases to the barrel.

5/ Estimated basis, California pack.

6/ California only.

N. A. - Not Available.

Canners' stock and pack data from National Canners Association, unless otherwise noted.

Wholesale distributors' stocks from United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.--Potatoes: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1949-55, annual 1956 and 1957

Seasonal Group	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested			Average 1949-55	1956	1957 ^{1/}	Average 1949-55	1956	1957 ^{1/}
	Average	1956	1957 ^{1/}						
	1949-55								
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Winter	22.6	33.8	44.0	156.6	155.6	154.3	3,554	5,260	6,790
Spring									
Early	23.7	26.1	31.6	131.4	154.1	139.5	3,110	4,022	4,408
Late	201.7	165.9	173.7	133.8	146.7	173.3	26,853	24,330	30,104
Summer									
Early	124.9	100.1	101.0	80.2	94.9	89.8	9,980	9,503	9,071
Late	218.0	187.7	182.7	152.7	181.0	173.3	33,042	33,967	31,667
Fall									
8 Eastern	307.0	282.2	268.3	199.1	240.1	226.8	61,179	67,756	60,848
9 Central	340.3	293.3	275.1	114.1	140.7	117.6	38,818	41,267	32,347
9 Western	270.6	296.4	298.4	184.4	194.4	204.5	49,922	57,611	61,033
Total	917.8	871.9	841.8	163.4	191.1	183.2	149,919	166,634	154,228
United States	1,508.8	1,385.5	1,374.8	150.4	175.9	171.9	226,458	243,716	236,268

^{1/} Preliminary.

Table 11.--Sweetpotatoes: Acreage, yield per acre and production average 1949-55, annual 1956 and 1957

	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production		
	Harvested			Average 1949-55	1956	1957	Average 1949-55	1956	1957
	Average	1956	1957						
	1949-55								
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Central									
Atlantic ^{1/}	38.1	36.9	38.4	83	88	90	3,174	3,258	3,456
Lower									
Atlantic ^{2/}	111.4	71.5	71.0	51	57	61	5,680	4,108	4,339
South									
Central ^{3/}	205.7	160.2	159.7	49	53	57	10,172	8,434	9,086
North									
Central ^{4/}	3.7	3.1	3.1	53	52	64	196	160	197
California	11.4	12.0	13.0	68	80	75	773	960	975
United States	373.1	283.7	285.2	54.0	59.6	63.3	20,179	16,920	18,053

^{1/} New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia.^{2/} North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.^{3/} Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.^{4/} Missouri and Kansas.^{5/} 1957, Preliminary.

Table 12.--Potatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale price at New York and Chicago, indicated periods 1956, 1957 and 1958

	Variety	State	Unit	Week ended					
				1956-57			1957-58		
				Nov. 10	Dec. 8	Jan. 12	Nov. 9	Dec. 7	Jan. 11
				Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
F.o.b. shipping points									
Katahdin, unwashed	South Dearfield,	U. S. No. 1	1/1.80	1/1.85	2.28	---	2.16	2.25	
	Massachusetts	100 lb. sack							
Various varieties 2/	Rochester, New York, (Western and Central points)	U. S. No. 1	.95	1.06	1.16	1.25	1.20	1.31	
		50 lb. sack							
Mostly Katahdin	Presque Isle, Maine, Aroostock	U. S. No. 1	.76	.77	.96	.82	.86	1.04	
		50 lb. sack							
Katahdin	Allentown-Lancaster, Oxford, Pennsylvania	U. S. No. 1	1.06	1.12	1.20	1.24	1.22	1.26	
		50 lb. sack							
Russet Burbank 3/	Idaho Falls Upper Valley Twin Falls District	U. S. No. 1	2.62	2.42	2.42	2.50	2.28	2.45	
		100 lb. sack							
Red McClure, washed 4/	San Luis Valley, Colorado	U. S. No. 1	2.11	2.04	2.00	2.62	2.38	2.68	
		100 lb. sack							
Katahdin, unwashed	West Michigan points	U. S. No. 1	.87	.94	1.02	1.22	1.24	1.26	
		50 lb. sack							
			Tuesday nearest mid-month						
			1956-57				1957-58		
			Nov. 13	Dec. 11	Jan. 15	Nov. 12	Dec. 10	Jan. 14	
			Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	
Terminal Markets									
New York									
Katahdin unwashed	Long Island	U. S. No. 1	1.24	1.23	1.39	1.36	1.29	1.39	
		50 lb. sack							
Russets, washed 5/	Idaho and Oregon	U. S. No. 1	2.38	2.35	2.37	2.35	2.31	2.46	
		50 lb. sack							
Katahdin,unwashed 6/	Maine	U. S. No. 1	---	1.30	1.51	1.37	1.42	1.59	
		50 lb. sack							
Chicago									
Russets	Idaho	U. S. No. 1	3.85	3.80	3.90	3.85	3.85	3.85	
		100 lb. sack							

6/ $2\frac{1}{4}$ inch minimum.

F.o.b. and terminal market prices submitted by Market News reports of AMS.

Table 13.--Sweetpotatoes: Price f.o.b. shipping points and wholesale (l.c.l. sales) at New York and Chicago, indicated periods, 1956, 1957 and 1958

[illegible]

F.o.b. prices are simple averages of the range of daily prices, compiled from Market News Service reports. The market prices are representative prices for Tuesday of each week and are submitted by the Market News Service representative at each market.

Table 14.--United States average prices received by farmers per hundred-weight for important field crops, indicated periods, 1956 and 1957

Commodity	Average		1956	1957		
	Aug. 1909- July 1914	Jan. 1947- Dec. 1949	Dec. 15	Oct. 15	Nov. 15	Dec. 15
	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>
Potatoes	1.14	2.47	1.56	1.58	1.68	1.61
Sweetpotatoes	1.60	4.27	4.29	3.27	3.32	5.07
Beans, dry edible	3.37	9.92	6.81	6.75	7.25	7.41
Peas, dry field	---	4.60	4.44	3.10	3.10	3.12

Table 15.--Beans, dry, edible: Acreage, yield per acre, and production, average 1946-55, annual 1956 and 1957 ^{1/}

States and classes	Harvested acreage :			Yield per acre :			Production ^{2/}		
	Average:	1956 :	1957 :	Average:	1956 :	1957 :	Average:	1956 :	1957 :
	1946-55:	1946-55:	1946-55:	1946-55:	1946-55:	1946-55:	1946-55:	1946-55:	1946-55:
	1,000	1,000	1,000				1,000	1,000	1,000
	acres	acres	acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	bags	bags	bags
Maine, New York, : and Michigan :	591	623	602	910	1,104	825	5,350	6,879	4,965
Nebraska, Montana: Idaho, Wyoming, : and Washington :	311	277	286	1,529	1,706	1,763	4,742	4,726	5,043
Colorado, New : Mexico, Arizona, : and Utah :	357	247	208	656	645	1,042	2,250	1,592	2,167
California: :									
Large lima :	73	60	61	1,553	1,707	1,546	1,138	1,024	943
Baby lima :	57	30	17	1,498	1,863	2,029	844	559	345
Other :	191	186	189	1,172	1,311	1,221	2,249	2,438	2,308
Total California :	321	276	267	1,316	1,457	1,347	4,231	4,021	3,596
United States :	1,580	1,423	1,363	1,058	1,210	1,157	16,573	17,218	15,771

^{1/} Includes beans grown for seed.^{2/} Bags of 100 pounds.

Table 16.--Beans, dry, edible: Production in selected areas, by major types, United States, crop years 1956 and 1957

Type	Michigan :		Idaho and : others ^{1/} :		Colorado and : others ^{2/} :		New York :		California :		Total	
	1956:	1957:	1956:	1957:	1956:	1957:	1956:	1957:	1956:	1957:	1956 :	1957
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}	bags ^{3/}
Pea (Navy) :	4,905	3,526	99	60	---	---	104	76	---	---	5,108	3,662
Great Northern :	---	---	1,808	1,508	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,808	1,508
Pinto :	17	12	1,738	2,616	1,579	2,162	---	---	15	14	3,349	4,804
Red Kidney :	233	131	119	43	---	1	1,226	935	284	207	1,862	1,317
Standard :												
lima :	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1,024	943	1,024	943
Baby lima :	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	559	345	559	345
Other varieties :	5	3	282	123	3	7	---	---	233	138	523	271
Total :	5,160	3,672	4,046	4,350	1,582	2,170	1,330	1,011	2,115	1,647	14,233	12,850

^{1/} Includes Montana, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Washington.^{2/} Includes Maine, New Mexico, Minnesota, Arizona, and Utah.^{3/} Bags of 100 pounds, cleaned basis.

Table 17.--Peas, dry field: Acreage yield per acre, and production, average 1946-55, annual 1956 and 1957 ^{1/}

State	Harvested acreage			Yield per acre			Production ^{2/}		
	Average : 1946-55 :	1956 :	1957 :	Average : 1946-55 :	1956 :	1957 :	Average : 1946-55 :	1956 :	1957 :
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	1,000 bags	1,000 bags	1,000 bags
Minnesota	4	6	4	892	1,300	1,050	38	78	42
North Dakota	6	3	2	907	1,270	1,100	64	38	22
Montana	8	5	4	1,072	1,220	1,150	88	61	46
Idaho	99	144	105	1,184	1,400	1,150	1,167	2,016	1,208
Wyoming	4	5	3	1,278	1,280	1,600	58	64	48
Colorado	11	9	12	844	860	900	93	77	108
Washington	161	154	120	1,140	1,360	1,300	1,844	2,094	1,560
Oregon	13	8	11	844	1,500	1,500	119	120	165
California	12	7	5	1,046	1,300	1,420	112	91	71
United States	320	341	266	1,123	1,360	1,229	3,584	4,639	3,270

^{1/} In commercial producing States. Includes peas grown for seed and cannery peas harvested dry.

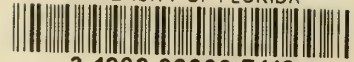
^{2/} Bags of 100 pounds, clean basis.

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